

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 01858 181818Z

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SUBJECT: DERIAN TRIP EXPLAINED CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

PATRICIA DERIAN, U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, CONCLUDED A VISIT TO ASIA WEDNESDAY SAYING HER TRIP WAS AIMED AT EXPLAINING CARTER ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES TO ASIAN LEADERS.

MS DERIAN TOLD A LATE-NIGHT BANGKOK NEWS CONFERENCE THAT SHE MET WITH THE LEADERS OF SINGAPORE, THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA AND THAILAND "TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS." THE U.S. IS NOT FORCING OTHER COUNTRIES TO CHANGE ANY SPECIFIC LAW OR FREE ANY PARTICULAR PRISONER, SHE SAID. "WHAT WE CAN DO IS TO TRY TO EXPRESS THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR DEMOCRACY AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION," THE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID.

IN THAILAND, MS DERIAN MADE A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO BANGKOK AND CAMPS FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

SHE DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING "SOME SIGNIFICANT GUIDEPOSTS" IN THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND SAID PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN'S COMMITMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS THIS YEAR AND GREATER THAI PRESS FREEDOM NOW WERE "SUBSTANTIVE THINGS."

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MS DERIAN ALSO WELCOMED THE PROVISION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL TO STUDENTS CURRENTLY BEING TRIED IN A MILITARY COURT FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIOLENCE AT BANGKOK'S THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY JUST BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1976 MILITARY COUP. "THE FACT THAT THEY ARE BEING TRIED IN OPEN COURT, IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW, WITH LEGAL COUNSEL IS VERY IMPORTANT," THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOLD REPORTERS.

FOLLOWING HER SESSION WITH NEWSMEN, MS DERIAN FLEW TO
GENEVA FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THE REFUGEE SITUATION WITH THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.
MCGINLEY

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